PETITION TO STOP FDA CENSORSHIP

TO: FDA Dockets Management Branch (HFA 305) 200 C Street, S.W.

Washington, D.C., 20204

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Re: (Docket # 98 N-044) RIN 0910-AA59 — Regulations on Statements Made for Dietary Supplements Concerning the Effect of the Product on the Structure or Function of the Body.

Your Proposed Rule on dietary supplement labeling will have an adverse effect on public health by placing arbitrary and capricious limits on the allowable health information that can be presented to consumers at the point of sale on dietary supplements. Your definition of disease is overly broad, and you are clearly overreaching your legal authority.

In the U.S. District Court in Utah, Judge Dale Kimball issued an injunction against the FDA, forcing you to lift your ban on Cholestin, which he declared is a dietary supplement under DSHEA. You tried to ban this safe Chinese red rice yeast extract, which helps lower cholesterol, because its sale angers pharmaceutical giant Merck. We remind you that dietary supplements were specifically exempted from the harmonization language in the FDA Reform Bill, and that Congress has been flooded with faxes, E-mail, and outraged calls on this issue.

In another legal victory over your agency, drug companies are now allowed to provide physicians with the results of peer-reviewed scientific research literature. In this landmark case, the FDA's position was struck down on First Amendment grounds. U.S. District Judge Royce C. Lamberth could find no legal precedent that would prohibit drug companies from handing out textbooks and scientific journals to medical doctors.

I urge you to withdraw your proposed rule that enables the FDA to censor information about dietary supplements.

ADDITIONALLY: I request that you forward this message to Drs. Yetley and Moore at the FDA Office of Special Nutritionals, to urge them to demand the complete withdrawal of the German Codex Proposal, which diametrically opposes United States law.

Signed: Lance In Martin	Date: 6/10/99
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